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SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ANGOLA: POSITION OF ZAMBIA, RWANDA, AND C.A.R.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE MET WITH AMBASSADORS WILKOWSKI AND FRITTS AND CHARGE SWING DECEMBER 27 AND FORWARDS THEIR ASSESSMENTS OF THEIR HOST COUNTRIES' POSITIONS ON ANGOLA:

--KAUNDA IS PERSONALLY COMMITTED TO STANDING UP TO THE SOVIETS AND WILL INTENSIFY BOTH HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS AGAINST FOREIGN ENCROACHMENTS AND HIS DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES TO HOLD THE LINE ON MPLA RECOGNITION.

--RWANDA WILL PROBABLY REMAIN NEUTRAL IN DEFERENCE TO FORMAL OAU POLICY AND IN AN EFFORT TO AVOID FRICTION

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WITH ZAIRE AND UGANDA.

--C.A.R. POLICY (OPPOSING THE SOVIET BUILDUP AND CALL-
ING FOR A NEGOTIATED AFRICAN SETTLEMENT) WILL PROBABLY
NOT CHANGE PRIOR TO THE JANUARY OAU CHIEFS OF STATE
MEETING. (SECRET) KINSHASA 11015 (LIMDIS), 12/28.)

2. BOTH EGYPT AND SYRIA WILL CONTINUE TO FEED AT KUWAITI
TROUGH

DESPITE ITS DISENCHANTMENT WITH EGYPT'S ENDLESS APPETITE
FOR ECONOMIC AID, KUWAIT IS UNLIKELY TO SWITCH ITS SUPPORT
TO SYRIA ALONE BUT WILL CONTINUE TO HELP BOTH STATES, EMBAS-
SY KUWAIT REPORTS. DISILLUSIONMENT WITH EGYPT IS REAL, HOW-
EVER, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF EGYPT'S ABOMINABLE ECONOMIC PER-
FORMANCE (ONE KUWAITI TERMED EGYPT "OUR BANGLADESH") RATHER
THAN ANGER OVER SINAI II. NEVERTHELESS, KUWAIT:

--RECOGNIZES THE OVERRIDING SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE
REGION OF EGYPT'S POLITICAL HEALTH AND THAT THIS
REQUIRES ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE;

--IS COMFORTABLE WITH SADAT'S PRACTICAL, NONIDEOLOGI-
CAL STYLE, VIEWING HIM AS FAR PREFERABLE TO ANY APPA-
RENT ALTERNATIVES;

--ALSO RECOGNIZES THAT, AS ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST ARAB
STATES, IT HAS A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR EGYPT.

BY CONTRAST, SYRIA IS SEEN AS A VITAL BULWARK AGAINST
ISRAELI AGGRESSION AND A VALUABLE COUNTERPOISE TO IRAQ.
MOREOVER, SYRIA'S ECONOMY IS IN BETTER SHAPE THAN EGYPT'S
AND THE SYRIANS ARE VIEWED AS MORE SAVVY BUSINESSMEN.

HARDNOSED KUWAITI ANALYSIS, THEREFORE, HAS LED TO THE CON-
CLUSION THAT IT HAS LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO CONTINUE TO BACK
BOTH SYRIA AND EGYPT ECONOMICALLY. (CONFIDENTIAL) KUWAIT
5402 (EXDIS), 12/28.)

3. SOUTH ARABIA

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A. HAMDY RECONCILED WITH TRIBAL STRONGMAN IN YEMEN

YEMENI FOREIGN MINISTER ASNAJ HAS TOLD AMBASSADOR SCOTES
THAT YEMEN'S INTERNAL SITUATION HAS IMPROVED MARKEDLY FOL-
LOWING PRESIDENT HAMDY'S TRIP TO RIYADH:

--HAMDY WAS ACCOMPANIED BY TRIBAL LEADER SHEIKH AHMAR,
WHO HAD BEEN TRYING TO RALLY SUPPORT AMONG THE NOR-

TERN TRIBES AGAINST THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. A RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE TWO APPARENTLY OCCURRED IN RIYADH, FOLLOWING "CLEAR AND UNEQUIVOCAL" DECLARATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR HAMDI FROM KING KHALID AND PRINCES FAHD, SULTAN, AND ABDULLAH.

EMBASSY COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ASNAJ IS AN URBAN POLITICIAN, HE RECOGNIZES THE NEED TO BRING YEMEN'S TRADITIONAL ELEMENTS INTO THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS AND, AS THE BEST WAY TO SATISFY TRIBAL LEADERS, FAVORS THE FORMATION OF A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HEADED BY AHMAR.

B. EVERYTHING'S COMING UP ROSES IN SAUDI-YAR RELATIONS

IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH ASNAJ AND HAMDI REGARDING PRESIDENT HAMDI'S TRIP TO RIYADH, AMBASSADOR SCOTES LEARNED THAT:

--SAUDI-YAR RELATIONS ARE NOW "COMPLETELY SATISFACTORY" AND THE MINI-CRISIS IS OVER. THE SAUDIS HAVE MADE FIRM COMMITMENTS ON ARMS SUPPLY AND BUDGET SUPPORT MATTERS, AND HAVE EXPRESSED COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN THE HAMDI GOVERNMENT.

--A SPECIAL SAUDI REPRESENTATIVE IS DUE IN SANA SHORTLY BRINGING FOR SIGNATURE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE YEMENI ARMY.

BOTH HAMDI AND ASNAJ EXPRESSED GREAT APPRECIATION FOR THE "IMPORTANT ROLE" PLAYED BY THE US IN EFFECTING THE RECONCILIATION.

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SCOTES NOTES THAT IT IS STILL UNCLEAR WHAT THE SAUDI POSITION IS ON THE SOVIET ARMS PROPOSALS.

--ASNAJ SAID THAT THUS FAR THE SOVIETS HAVE ONLY AGREED TO SUPPLY ARMS CURRENTLY IN THE YEMENI INVENTORY. NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS WERE PROMISED ONLY IF HAMDI AGREED TO GO TO MOSCOW TO ACCEPT THEM. ASNAJ PROFESSED NOT TO KNOW IF THE SAUDIS HAVE ASKED HAMDI TO REJECT EITHER STAGE.

--HAMDI SAID HE HAD LEFT IT UP TO THE SAUDIS TO GUIDE HIM ON THE SOVIET PROPOSALS, BUT DID NOT ELABORATE.

C. AGITATION IN OMAN AND SOUTH YEMEN

OMAN'S SULTAN QABOOS IS ALARMED OVER WHAT HE SEES AS A SOUTH YEMENI MILITARY BUILDUP IN PREPARATION FOR AN ATTACK ON HIS COUNTRY. QABOOS CITES AN INCREASE OF SOVIET MILITARY FLIGHTS TO ADEN AND THE PRESENCE OF CUBAN AND SOVIET

MILITARY ADVISERS ALONG THE DHOFAR BORDER. THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TOLD AMBASSADOR WOLLE, HOWEVER, THAT THE BRITISH VIEW THE RECENT PDRY MILITARY MANEUVERS AS DEFENSIVE IN NATURE.

MEANWHILE, MINISTER ASNAJ TOLD AMBASSADOR SCOTES THAT HE HAS RECEIVED REPORTS OF A DETERIORATING POLITICAL SITUATION IN SOUTH YEMEN WITH BOMB EXPLOSIONS IN TWO CITIES AND THE KILLING OF SEVERAL STUDENTS ATTEMPTING TO FLEE TO NORTH YEMEN. ASNAJ SPECULATED THAT THE RECENT REVERSALS SUFFERED BY THE PDRY-BACKED DHOFAR REBELS IS CAUSING DISSATISFACTION IN ADEN ITSELF. (CONFIDENTIAL) SANA 3619, 3621, 3634 AND 3618 AND MUSCAT 1440, 12/28.) ROBINSON

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